Annual Chapter Report

2019-2020

Cal Poly Pomona Delta Beta

A. Initiations

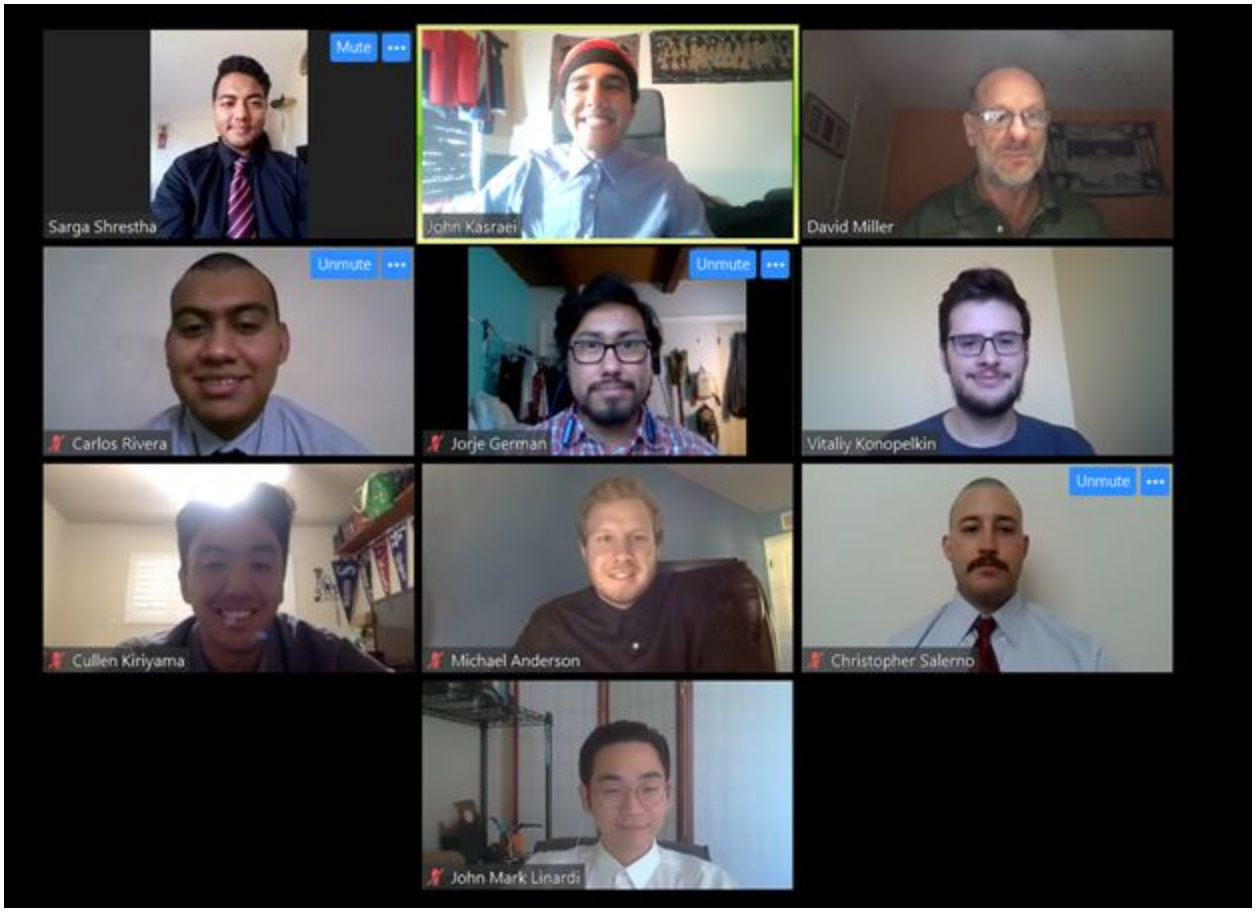
There were two initiations held during this academic school year, one in the Fall Semester and one in the Spring Semester. Traditionally the Fall Initiation is the period where the Delta Beta chapter experiences the largest growth, however this academic year Delta Beta experienced circumstances that made initiation difficult. Due to a change in school policy, we were unable to receive student GPA's in order to send out the invitations. We did not receive the information until halfway through the semester and so student interest greatly diminished. During this time, the club president had a health emergency that resulted in her spending some time in the hospital. Because of the lack of communication, we were greatly disorganized. Problems with accessing student information to send out invitations continued to the Spring semester. By the time we were able to send out invitations, the school went online a few weeks later due to Covid-19. This year, we had 4 members join in the Fall and another 4 during the Spring. The Fall initiation was held on November 15, 2019 and the Spring initiation was held on May 1, 2020. The requirements to initiate into the chapter mirrors that set by the national chapter. This year's eligibility to join required that the individual needs to be in the top 25% and 35% of their class year, Junior and Senior class respectively. In addition to class ranking, the student must have a 2.7 core GPA and a 3.25 overall GPA, must obtain signatures from ten active Pi Tau Sigma members (of which 2 must be from professors and 3 from officers), pay their membership dues ($35 National dues, $35 Cal Poly Pomona Delta Beta dues, and $5 year fee), and complete a total of 5 service or networking hours. One additional requirement that the Delta Beta chapter has is the student must complete 36 units at Cal Poly Pomona and have 40 core units completed overall. This requirement ensures that the individual has attended a minimum of two semesters at the university so that the chapter can ensure their GPA reflects their engineering grades at Cal Poly Pomona. However, due to the impact of Covid-19, for the Spring semester students were only expected to pay the $35 National due and the signatures and service/networking hours were waived. For the Fall initiation ceremony, the candidates were led into an auditorium-style classroom where the initiation ceremony was led by the 2019-2020 Delta Beta officers and advisor. Following the ceremony, initiates were invited to join Pi Tau Sigma members for pizza at a campus run restaurant, Innovation Brew Works, to celebrate their accomplishments and successful initiation into the organization. For the Spring initiation semester, a Zoom session was held and the initiation ceremony continued as normal.

B. Chapter Activity

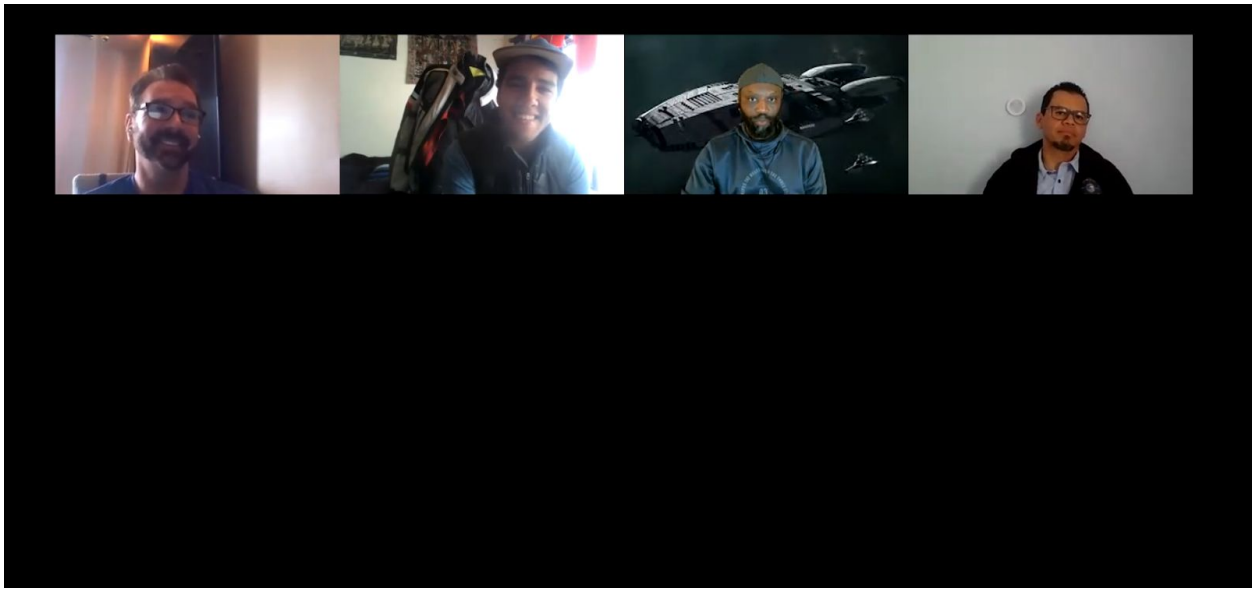
Due to difficulties experienced throughout the year, there were challenges to hosting events. In addition to not having access to student GPAs to invite them, Delta Beta lost its club standing and access to its accounts at the school due to lost documents. Larger events that we hosted in the past were put on hold because we didn't have access to our funds and instead there was a focus on smaller events.

There is a PTS meeting every week. Biweekly, PTS will host a general meeting during the university's designated club hour, "U-Hour." During this meeting, the officers talk about PTS specific events, events hosted by other organizations (Engineers without Borders, Robotics Club, ASME, Materials Advantage, etc). During the non-meeting weeks, a biweekly tutoring session/study hall is held for Mechanical Engineering students. This tutoring session serves as the primary tutoring session supported by the Mechanical Engineering department. During this time, the initiates and current members can help tutor those who have difficulty understanding lower level curriculum courses (Vector Statics, Fluid Mechanics, Thermodynamics, etc). This also serves to give PTS exposure to the department. As PTS is an honor society and membership is restricted, we strive to get good exposure and find opportunities to encourage students to succeed in the classroom so that they too may receive an invitation to the organization. A resume review, in partnership with Materials Advantage, was also held in the Spring semester. By partnering with a materials engineering focused club, we were able to better orient resumes for the individuals desired industry.

In response to the Covid-19 event and anxiety that students were experiencing, we held two open forums with engineers from industry. It was a Zoom based open forum where engineers could tell their personal stories of hardships/challenges and answer questions with the main goal to boost morale and alleviate nerves. We had engineers from Northrop Grumman, Honeywell, Teradata, Goodyear, and Johnson & Johnson. Students of all engineering majors were invited as well as other schools, specifically connections made at the 2020 PTS convention.



Spring 2020 Members and 2020 Officers



Round Table with Engineers, Second Session: April 21, 2020